

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~☆~~ An optical device ~~such as an optical isolator, attenuator, circulator or switch~~ including a first combination of birefringent prisms wedges with parallel optic axes ~~capable of~~ for dividing an optical input beam into polarized beams and combining polarized beams into an output beam ~~and~~ , a second combination of birefringent wedges with parallel optic axes for combining polarized beams into an output ~~beams~~ beam, and a polarization changer disposed between said first combination of birefringent wedges and said second combination of birefringent wedges.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~☆~~ An optical device of claim 3 ~~1~~, further comprising ~~a second combination of birefringent prisms with parallel optic axes for combining parallel polarized beams into an output beam, a polarization changer disposed between said first combination of birefringent prisms and said second combination of birefringent prisms, and~~ a third combination of birefringent ~~prisms~~ wedges with parallel optic axes disposed between said polarization changer and said second combination of birefringent ~~prisms~~ wedges.

7. (Currently Amended) An optical device as described in ~~of~~ claim 1, wherein ~~prisms~~ wedges of at least one combination of birefringent ~~prisms~~ wedges are arranged about at least one reflector or refractor.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical device ~~as described in~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~prisms~~ wedges of at least one combination of birefringent ~~prisms~~ wedges are arranged about a polarization changer.

9. (Currently Amended) An optical ~~isolator as described in~~ device of claim [[5]] 1, wherein said device is an optical isolator and at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

10. (Currently Amended) An optical ~~attenuator as described in~~ device of claim [[5]] 1, wherein said device is an optical attenuator and at least one polarization changer of said device is a reciprocal polarization changer.

11. (Currently Amended) An optical ~~circulator as described in~~ device of claim [[5]] 1, wherein said device is an optical circulator and at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

12. (Currently Amended) An optical ~~switch as described in~~ device of claim [[5]] 1, wherein said device is an optical switch and at least one polarization changer of said device is a reciprocal polarization changer.